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Senate

The Senate met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BEN RAY LUJÁN, a Senator from the State of New Mexico.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, we thank You for Your great blessings. Lord, we are grateful that though the arc of the moral universe is long, it bends toward justice.

Continue to use our lawmakers to permit justice to roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.

May our Senators trust Your prevailing providence as they realize that behind the dim unknown, You stand within the shadows, keeping watch above Your own.

Lord, be with all the families affected by the Derek Chauvin trial. Be also with the many brave men and women who faithfully serve You in law enforcement.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 21, 2021.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BEN RAY LUJÁN, a Senator from the State of New Mexico, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. LUJÁN thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 60; that the nomination be confirmed; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and that the Senate resume legislative session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nomination considered and confirmed is as follows:

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be admiral

Adm. John C. Aquilino

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

TRIAL OF DEREK CHAUVIN

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, yesterday, a jury of former police officer Derek Chauvin's peers determined that he was guilty of murdering George Floyd, confirming what was plain to the millions of Americans who watched his murder on video—9½ excruciating minutes that documented the senseless and unnecessary loss of one man's life in broad daylight.

Our country was forever changed by the horrendous video of Derek Chauvin killing Mr. Floyd. His searing final words, screaming for air, calling for his mother, are etched in our memory. This guilty verdict serves as an official proclamation of what so many of us have known for nearly a year: George Floyd was murdered by an officer who was sworn to protect and to serve but who, obviously, didn't.

The brutality of George Floyd's murder, yet another in a seemingly endless string of tragedies, sparked a summer of protest unlike any we have seen in American history, elevating a long-building movement for more justice in policing. Americans of every age, color, and creed took to the streets in peaceful protest—from Minneapolis to Maine and Los Angeles to Atlanta, and including in my own home city of New York. A community of global citizens would soon join them in protest. In foreign capitals—from Rome, Paris, and London to Amsterdam, Berlin, and Mexico City—the name George Floyd would echo through the public square. This was not only a fight for justice but a fight against the mistreatment, discrimination, and outright bigotry that Black men and women suffer at the hands of State power, not just here in America but around the globe.

The death of George Floyd provoked such a reaction because folks in those

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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